PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTEGRATED OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM

VOLUME 337 EXPEDITION REPORTS

DEEP COALBED BIOSPHERE OFF SHIMOKITA

Expedition 337 of the riser drilling platform
Hachinohe, Japan, to Shimizu, Japan
Site C0020
26 July–30 September 2012

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Abbreviations for names of organizations and publications in IODP reference lists follow the style given in Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (published by American Chemical Society).

The bulk of the shipboard-collected core data from this expedition is accessible at sio7.jamstec.go.jp.

Supplemental data were provided by the authors and may not conform to IODP publication formats.

Some core photographs have been tonally enhanced to better illustrate particular features of interest. High-resolution images are available upon request.

Cover photograph shows first piece of coal retrieved from core. Photo © Luc Rilon.

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Foreword

By Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Management International, Inc.

The Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) is now in the latter half of its decadal program (2003–2013). As envisioned in the Initial Science Plan (ISP), IODP expeditions take advantage of three scientific ocean drilling platforms that enable us to cover unprecedented areas of wide oceans, from ice-covered shallow water to full ocean depths. Drilling miles of depth below seafloor, now part of IODP capabilities, is the major advance from the program predecessors, the Deep Sea Drilling Project and the Ocean Drilling Program. The living Earth is a dynamic system that is continuously evolving. IODP seeks to understand this complex and unique system through scientific ocean drilling, sampling, and experimenting in deep holes, along with advancement of related scientific disciplines. IODP is an international collaboration among scientists and nations with keen aspirations to attain the scientific goals of the ISP. IODP currently includes participating members from 26 nations.

The Proceedings present the scientific and engineering results of IODP drilling projects, each designed to better understand the past, present, and future of the Earth system.

IODP expeditions begin with scientists who submit research drilling proposals to test new and innovative ideas, then the proposals progress to international scientific advisors (Science Advisory Structure) who nurture, evaluate, rank, and prioritize proposals. Scientists also schedule the science operations, select science party members from scores of international scientists qualified to participate, plan platform operations, ready the drillship, and choose borehole locations. The science party, collectively and individually, conducts science on board and on shore. The co-chief scientists on each expedition are responsible for synthesizing the scientific results as hallmark of expedition.

Ocean-drilling achievements help us to understand and interpret phenomena in various parts of the Earth system. Achievements in the two legacy drilling programs have validated the scientific concepts behind plate tectonics, contributed to the understanding of ocean circulation changes, and extended our knowledge of long- and short-term climate change. IODP is truly an expansion and extension of the scientific research conducted by the legacy programs, engaging in cutting-edge research concerning topics of global importance.

IODP drilling platform operations are conducted by three Implementing Organizations (IOs). Riserless platform operations are conducted by the U.S. Implementing Organization (USIO), comprising the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Inc., Texas A&M University through the Texas A&M Research Foundation, and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Riser platform operations are conducted by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology through Japan’s Center for Deep Earth Exploration in cooperation with the Center for Advanced Marine Core Research at Kochi University. Mission-specific platform operations are conducted by the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) Science Operator (ESO), comprising the British Geological Survey, the University of Bremen, and the European Petrophysics Consortium. The European IO currently represents the ocean-drilling efforts of 16 nations in Europe, plus Canada.

The discoveries presented in this volume build upon layers of knowledge and science developed over roughly the last fifty years. Expedition Proceedings are published by IODP Management International for IODP under the sponsorship of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other IODP members. The material is based upon research supported under Contract OCE-0432224 from NSF.

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Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA

*At time of expedition.
Implementing organizations

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Web site: www.jamstec.go.jp/chikyu/eng/index.html

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Core descriptions

Visual core descriptions (VCDs), cuttings descriptions, smear slide data, thin section data, and core images are included in this section. VCDs, cuttings descriptions, smear slides, and thin sections are combined into PDF files for each site. The entire set of core images in PDF is available in the IMAGES directory.

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Expedition research results

Data reports

Titles are available in HTML.

Syntheses

Titles are available in HTML.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material for this volume includes core and cuttings summary and smear slide data in Microsoft Excel format, scanned handwritten visual core descriptions in PDF format, microbiology and miscellaneous material sample lists in Microsoft Excel format, mud correction data in Microsoft Excel format, PFC tracer data in Microsoft Excel format, and XRF and XRD data in Microsoft Excel format. See README.TXT in the SUPP_MAT directory for a full listing of directories and files.
Drilling location maps

A site map showing the drilling locations for this expedition and maps showing the drilling locations of all Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), and Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) drilling sites are available in PDF format. These maps were produced using Generic Mapping Tools (GMT) of Paul Wessel and Walter H.F. Smith (gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/).

IODP Expedition 337 site map

IODP map (Expeditions 301–337, 339–340, 342, and 343/343T)

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Expedition-related bibliography*

IODP publications

Scientific Prospectus

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*The Expedition-related bibliography is continually updated online. Please send updates to PubCrd@iodp.tamu.edu.
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